

PreK4 and PreK5 Curriculum Overview

Children in Pre-K4 and Pre- K5 wear school uniforms and are part of the Elementary School program. New, exciting curriculum is introduced to inspire learning at the more advanced level. Every classroom enjoys a low student-teacher ratio of 9:1 that is well below state guidelines, to ensure better learning with more support. Pre-K classes meet from 8:00 to 1:00 daily. Extended care is available between the hours of 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m..

According to a four-year study conducted in Tennessee, observations confirmed "children who were originally enrolled in smaller classes continued to perform better than their grade-mates (whose school experience had begun in larger classes), when they were returned to regular-sized classes in later grades. After the four year study, it was clear that the smaller classes did produce substantial improvements in earlier learning and cognitive studies."
Fredrick Mosteller, Ph.D.

The *McGinnis Woods Country Day School* PreK4 and Pre-K 5 programs introduce a *phonics-based* program to our students. This program, *The Land of the Letter People*, is a Kindergarten level program. It focuses on the multiple intelligences theory and a thematic curriculum that includes Math Factory, Art Department, Word Workshop, Book Bank, Imagination Station, Sound Studio, Science Lab and Computer Corner – offering a diversified approach to thinking and learning.

The Land of the Letter People is a warm, friendly curriculum, which includes: Reading, Writing, Science, Safety, Health, Social Studies, Math, Art, and Foreign Language. Children are encouraged to try out their developing literacy and social skills with the assurance that their own knowledge and ideas are respected and valued. The curriculum helps children of varying backgrounds work together for mutual learning.

Pre-K 5 students are taught at an accelerated pace using a thematic, phonics based program called *Lives of the Letter People*. The students also use the *Sing to Read* reading series and the *Every Day Counts* math program which builds on the *Math Their Way* math curriculum.

Math Their Way is a program whose goals are to develop understanding and insight of the patterns of math through the use of concrete materials. The activities are designed to help young children see relationships and interconnections in math and to enable them to deal flexibly with mathematical ideas and concepts. This curriculum is implemented through the second grade level.

The combined curriculum approach – *Phonics and Thematic* – offers students exposure to a diverse number of subjects, and enables them to learn through multiple approaches – group learning, one-on-one, hands-on, experimentation and off-campus field trips. This is truly outstanding preparation for Kindergarten at McGinnis Woods, and sets the tone for excitement and love of learning.

Rounding out our program are opportunities for expression and extension in *special weekly classes* taught by specialists. These classes include: Art, Health, Computer Lab, Library Skills, Music, PE and Spanish (2 or 3 times/week). **McGinnis Woods Country Day School** welcomes the opportunity to be part of your child's education.